

Message Text

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44

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 A-01 OPR-02 /015 W

----- 032013

O 071930Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3327

INFO MSG BATTALION WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 5323

ASEC

DEPT FOR A/SY/FO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC, JM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TDY MARINES IN KINGSTON

1. NATIONAL ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN JAMAICA ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1976. POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION HAS BEEN UNSTABLE FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. JAMAICA IS CURRENTLY UNDER A "STATE OF EMERGENCY", BUT ALREADY HIGH RATE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO ESCALATE AS ELECTION DAY APPROACHES. LOCAL SECURITY FORCES ARE TAXED TO THEIR UTMOST AND ARE LARGELY UNABLE TO OFFER MEANINGFUL OR EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE WHEN ASKED.

2. SINCE NOVEMBER 25, THERE HAVE BEEN NINE SEPARATE INCIDENTS INVOLVING EMBASSY STAFF AND/OR PROPERTY AND POST IS IMPLEMENTING STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES TO REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE OCCURRENCES. DURING ENTIRE WEEK OF ELECTIONS, POST 1, AT EMBASSY MAIN CHANCERY WILL BE MANNED BY TWO MSGS ON A 24 HOUR PER DAY BASIS. TWO MSGS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO VISA ANNEX FROM 0730-1700 HOURS. ALL TRAVEL BY MSGS WILL BE IN PAIRS, TO INCLUDE POSTING OF RELIEFS AT MSG POST AT NEW CHANCERY SITE.

3. IN VIEW OF SITUATION, IT IS URGENTLY REQUESTED THAT
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TWO (2) MARINES BE SENT TDY TO KINGSTON FOR A PERIOD OF

TEN (10) DAYS TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING INTERNAL SECURITY
DURING UPCOMING CRITICAL PERIOD. AMBASSADOR ENDORSES
THIS REQUEST AND LTC SHERIDAN, MSG BN XO STRONGLY CONCURS..

4. MARINES SHOULD ARRIVE NLT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12,
REPEAT DECEMBER 12. EMBASSY HOUSING AVAILABLE. PLEASE
ADVISE ASAP.
GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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